

Hydrostatic Pressure and Force

Message: Make sure you go through these examples.

Pressure = density \times gravity \times depth = Weight \times Depth.

Force = Pressure \times Area. So Force = Weight \times Area \times Depth

1. An aquarium 5 m long, 10 m wide, and 3 m deep is filled with seawater of density 1030 kg/m^3 to a depth of 2.5 m.

(a) Find the hydrostatic pressure at the bottom of the pool.

$$\text{Pressure} = 1030 \times 9.8 \times 2.5.$$

(b) Find the hydrostatic force at the bottom of the pool.

$$\text{Force} = 1030 \times 9.8 \times 5 \times 10 \times 2.5.$$

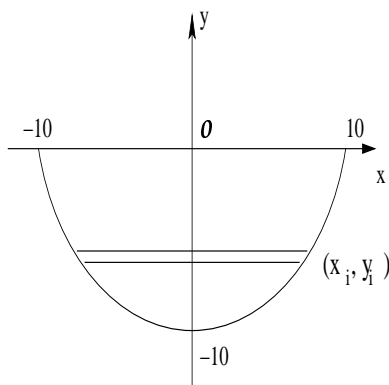
(c) Find the hydrostatic force on one end of the aquarium. On 5X3 end: Weight at level y m down is 1030×9.8 . Area at level y m down is $5\Delta y$. Depth at level y m down is y . Therefore, $\text{Force}_y = 1030 \cdot 9.8 \cdot 5y\Delta y$ and

$$\text{Force} = \int_0^{2.5} 1030 \cdot 9.8 \cdot 5y \, dy$$

2. The end of a tank containing water is vertical and has the shape of the bottom of a half circle of radius 10 m. Determine the hydrostatic force against the end of the tank.

Answer Determine Force = Pressure \times Area for a given strip:

For water we have $\rho g = 1000 \times 9.8 = 9.8 \times 10^3$.



If we consider the equations of the half circle: $y = -\sqrt{100 - x^2}$ (negative because it is the bottom half). Then the depth of the water at a value of y is $-y$. So that

Pressure= $9.8 \times 10^3 \times (-y)$.

The Area of the strip is twice x coordinate at y so Area= $2\sqrt{100 - y^2}\Delta y$.

And the Force due to that strip is Force=Pressure \times Area.

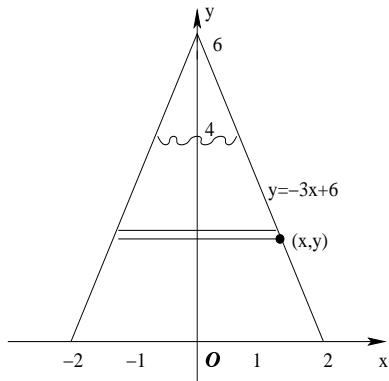
$$F_y = 9.8 \times 10^3 \times (-y) \times 2\sqrt{100 - y^2}\Delta y.$$

$$\begin{aligned} F &= 9.8 \times 10^3 \cdot \int_{y=-10}^{y=0} -2y\sqrt{100 - y^2} dy \\ &= 9.8 \times 10^3 \cdot \left[\frac{2}{3} (100 - y^2)^{3/2} \right]_{y=-10}^{y=0} \\ &= 9.8 \times 10^3 \times \frac{2}{3}(1000) = \frac{2}{3} \times 9.8 \times 10^3. \end{aligned}$$

3. The end of a tank containing water is vertical and has the shape of a triangle with base 4 ft and height 6 ft. The tank is full to a level of 4 ft. Determine the Force on this end.

Answer Determine Force=Pressure \times Area for a given strip:

For water we have $\rho g = 62.4$.



If we consider the equation of the line with slope -3 and y -intercept $(0,6)$, we have $y = -3x + 6$. The depth from the top at any y is $4 - y$. So

Pressure= $62.4 \times (4 - y)$.

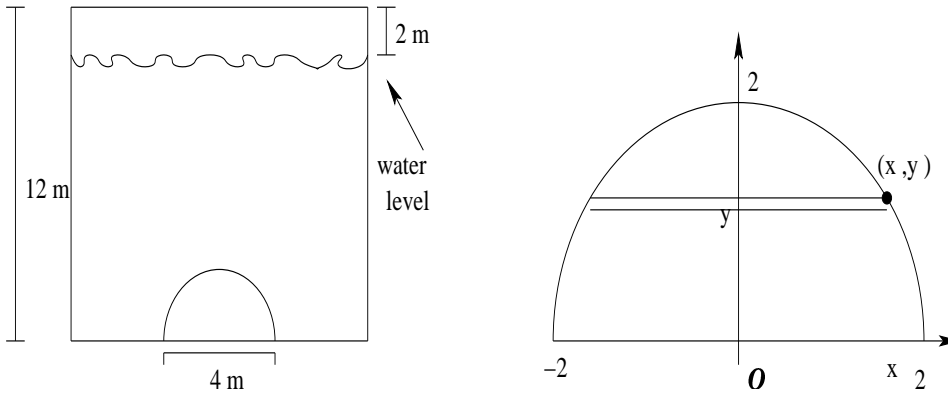
The Area of any strip is twice the x -coordinate at y times Δy , so Area= $2\left(\frac{6-y}{3}\right)\Delta y$.

And the Force due to that strip is Force=Pressure \times Area.

$$F_y = 62.4 \times (4 - y) \times 2\left(\frac{y - 6}{3}\right)\Delta y.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F &= \frac{124.8}{3} \int_{y=0}^{y=4} (4-y)(6-y) dy \\
&= \frac{124.8}{3} \int_{y=0}^{y=4} (y^2 - 10y + 24) dy \\
&= \frac{124.8}{3} \left[\frac{1}{3}y^3 - 5y^2 + 24y \right]_{y=0}^{y=4}
\end{aligned}$$

4. A vertical dam has a semicircle gate as shown in the figure. Find the hydrostatic force against the gate.



Determine the Force=Pressure×Area at any level y on the gate. The equation of the semicircle is $y = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$.

The depth of the water at any level y is $(10-y)$. So Pressure= $1000 \times 9.8 \times (10 - y)$. The Area of any strip is twice the x -coordinate at y times Δy so Area= $2\sqrt{4 - y^2}\Delta y$. Force=Pressure×Area

$$F_y = 9.8 \times 10^3 \times (10 - y) \times 2\sqrt{4 - y^2}\Delta y.$$

$$\begin{aligned}
F &= 19.6 \times 10^3 \cdot \int_{y=0}^{y=2} (10 - y)\sqrt{4 - y^2} dy. \\
&= 19.6 \times 10^3 \left[10 \int_0^2 \sqrt{4 - y^2} dy - \int_0^2 y\sqrt{4 - y^2} dy \right] \\
&= 19.6 \times 10^3 \left[10\pi + \frac{2}{3}(4 - y^2)^{3/2} \Big|_0^2 \right] \\
&= 19.6 \times 10^3 \times \left(10\pi - \frac{16}{3} \right).
\end{aligned}$$